United Nations S/2014/696

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 September 2014

Original: English

Implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014)

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. This seventh report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014) and paragraph 10 of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014), in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report, every 30 days, on the implementation of the resolutions by all parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic.

2. The report covers the period from 19 August to 17 September 2014. The information contained in the report and the attached annex is based on the data available to the United Nations actors on the ground and reports from open sources and sources of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

II. Major developments

A. Political/military

3. Conflict and high levels of violence continued across the Syrian Arab Republic during the reporting period, particularly in the governorates of Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Deir ez-Zor, Rif Dimashq, Damascus, Hasakeh, Idlib, Dar`a, Quneitra and Raqqa. Indiscriminate shelling and aerial attacks by government forces and indiscriminate shelling and attacks by armed opposition, extremist and designated terrorist groups[1] continued to result in deaths of, injuries to and displacement of civilians. In its report of 22 August entitled "Updated statistical analysis of documentation of killings in the Syrian Arab Republic",[2] the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) enumerated a list of 191,369 individuals reported killed between March 2011 and the end of April 2014.

[1] On 30 May 2013, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the Nusra Front were designated as terrorist groups by the Security Council under resolution 1267 (1999). The two groups operate in the Syrian Arab Republic.

[2] The analysis for the report relied on five sources, including records provided by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic through March 2012. Of the documented killings, 85.1 per cent (162,925) of those killed were male and 9.3 per cent (17,795) were female.

Please recycle

However, the data did not allow for a differentiation between combatants and non-combatants.

4. Air strikes, shelling and indiscriminate barrel bomb attacks by government forces continued on opposition-held areas, notably in Aleppo and Damascus governorates, resulting in a high number of civilian casualties. In Aleppo, government forces reportedly continued their campaign of barrel bomb attacks, which has been ongoing since mid-December 2013. OHCHR received reports that at least 55 civilians, including 17 children and 7 women, were killed as a result of such attacks between 19 August and 3 September. In Damascus governorate, government forces reportedly intensified attacks against the opposition-held areas of Joubar and several locations in eastern Ghouta. Reports indicate that Joubar was subjected to dozens of air raids and heavy shelling on 2 and 3 September, resulting in the death of at least 10 civilians, while aerial bombardment by government forces reportedly killed at least 120 people and injured hundreds of people in Douma (eastern Ghouta).

5. Dar`a, Hama and Idlib governorates have also been severely affected by indiscriminate attacks by government forces. For example, in Dar`a governorate, an analysis by the Operational Satellite Applications Programme of satellite imagery collected on 5 September indicated ongoing bombardment of the city of Dar`a, most likely, in some instances, by barrel bombs. Possible damage is visible elsewhere in the city and is likely the result of conventional artillery, light air-dropped munitions or other causes. According to information gathered by OHCHR, on 30 August 2014, missile attacks by government forces on the city of Saraqib (Idlib), reportedly led to the death of at least 15 people, including 8 children and 4 women. Another reported missile attack by government forces, on 3 September, in the town of Naqir (Idlib), led to the death of five civilians. In Hama, 16 civilians were reportedly killed by shelling in Tal Khaznah.

6. Government forces also shelled and undertook airstrikes against ISIL positions in the northern and eastern parts of the country in an attempt to stop ISIL advancement towards government airbases in Rif Aleppo and Deir ez-Zor, Hasakeh and Raqqa governorates, resulting in civilian casualties. In Deir ez-Zor, government airstrikes reportedly hit a bus carrying civilians in the village of Shoula, killing at least 13 people, including 10 children. On 15 September, government airstrikes destroyed Siasyeh bridge in Deir ez-Zor city, cutting off access to an estimated 50,000 people.

7. Government-controlled cities and towns continued to be subject to indiscriminate mortar attacks, shelling and vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices by armed opposition, extremist and designated terrorist groups, notably in Aleppo and Damascus governorates. For example, in Aleppo city, extensive shelling in the Khalideah residential and commercial area at the beginning of September resulted in the deaths of eight civilians, including women and children.

8. On 5 September, armed opposition groups took control of the Dokhanya and Ein Tarma suburbs of Damascus and engaged government forces in Midan and Zahira al-Jadida, located less than 2 km from the Old City. A similar operation took place in Teshrine district, north of Damascus. On 16 September, one of the main Islamic Front factions (Ajnad al-Sham) announced the beginning of a second phase of rocket attacks on the centre of Damascus.

9. According to research by Human Rights Watch released on 1 September, there is credible evidence that ISIL forces used ground-fired cluster munitions on 12 July and again on 14 August during fighting around the Syrian town of Ain al-Arab (Kobanî) in Aleppo governorate, near the northern border of the Syrian Arab Republic with Turkey. Human Rights Watch also documented apparent recent use of cluster munitions by Syrian government forces, including on 21 August, on the town of Manbij in Aleppo governorate, which has been under the control of ISIL since the beginning of 2014.

10. Civilians continue to be displaced as a result of ongoing fighting and conflict. During the reporting period, displacement was recorded in areas of Hasakeh, Hama and Quneitra governorates. In Hasakeh, between 20,000 and 30,000 people were displaced as a result of the ongoing fighting in and around the Ya'robiyah, Jasaa and Gweiran neighbourhoods of Hasakeh city. The displaced have fled to other parts of Hasakeh, as well as to Qamishli. In addition, reports indicate that some 9,000 people fled four villages in Tal Hamis towards Qamishli and other locations following fighting between the People's Protection Units (Yekîneyên Parastina Gel) and other armed groups. In Hama, fighting between government forces and armed opposition groups in southern and western rural areas led to about 22,500 people fleeing to Hama city and Salamiyah and about 7,000 people to Atmeh and Karameh in Idlib governorate. Reports indicate that up to 110,000 internally displaced persons were registered for assistance in those areas during the reporting period. In Quneitra, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that more than 5,000 people were displaced towards areas in Rif Dimashq governorate to escape the ongoing fighting.

11. Parties to the conflict continued to target vital services and infrastructure. Reduced availability of water and electricity continued to be reported in various contested areas in Dar`a, Idlib, Hama, Deir ez-Zor and Rif Dimashq governorates. In Aleppo city, damage caused to the main water pumping station, Suleiman al-Halabi, by armed opposition groups on 2 June continues to result in water shortages for more than 700,000 people. While repairs to the pumping station in Aleppo have continued since 19 July, the water station pumping capacity remains low owing to electricity cuts and lack of fuel for generators. On 4 September, the armed opposition groups controlling Suleiman al-Halabi cut water supply to Aleppo for two days and are reported to have placed explosive devices in the immediate vicinity of the second pumping station. On 8 September, barrel bombs were reportedly dropped on Sakhour in Aleppo, resulting in extensive damage to the electrical transmission substation.

12. ISIL continues to increase its influence in the Syrian Arab Republic, predominantly along the main supply lines in rural central Homs, Hama, Rif Dimashq, Hasakeh and Aleppo and in areas with border crossings, natural resources and key infrastructure. During the reporting period, ISIL made advances in Deir ez-Zor, Raqqa and Aleppo governorates following clashes with government forces and armed opposition groups. In Deir ez-Zor, ISIL attacked and shelled opposition-controlled areas and government installations in the north, including Deir ez-Zor military airport and Kuweires airbase in eastern Aleppo. In Raqqa governorate, ISIL took over the Government's Tabaqa airbase on 24 August. In Hasakeh, ISIL reportedly fought the People's Protection Units in Jazeah town and surrounding areas (60 km south-east of Qamishli city), resulting in hundreds of families displaced. At the close of the reporting period, ISIL had made significant advances

in the Ain al-Arab area, which, as at 22 September, has forced 130,000 people to flee to Turkey. This is the largest influx of Syrian refugees to Turkey in such a short period of time since the beginning of the conflict in 2011.

13. About 84,000 of the 95,000 Yazidi people who were displaced to Hasakeh governorate following attacks by ISIL on the Sinjar district of Ninewa governorate in Iraq have since departed the area, using the Semalka border crossing in order to move to the Kurdish region of Iraq. As at 11 September, an estimated 4,700 arrivals from Iraq remain in the Newroz camp and approximately 3,000 are staying in the surrounding villages.

14. In Idlib governorate, on 9 September, a bomb attack killed the leader of Harakat Ahrar al-Sham al-Islamiyya, part of the Islamic Front, Hassan Abboud, along with up to 45 people, including several other leaders of the group. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack.

15. Although the United Nations does not have the means to independently verify numbers and origins, non-Syrian fighters, including designated terrorist groups, increasingly are participating in the fighting in the Syrian Arab Republic, on all sides of the conflict. Many analysts report that the number of foreign fighters has steadily increased since ISIL declared an Islamic caliphate and launched major offensives in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq over the past three months. Estimates range from about 200 to 300 new foreign fighters joining ISIL per month to up to 6,000 fighters in July alone. The territory encompassing the ISIL-declared Islamic caliphate is estimated to have a population of up to 9 million people.

16. There have been a number of local ceasefire agreements, as well as ongoing negotiations, between the Government and armed opposition groups. In Damascus governorate, a ceasefire agreement was reached in the Qadam and Asal areas of Damascus city on 18 August. Following the agreement, essential services started to be restored and some 4,000 civilians returned to their homes. In Yarmouk camp in Damascus, the Government recently invited armed opposition groups to form a delegation and resume direct negotiations on the implementation of the cessation of hostilities agreement that was reached on 21 June, which has to date seen no progress towards its implementation.

17. Local ceasefire negotiations are also ongoing in Rif Dimashq and Homs governorates. In Rif Dimashq, a local agreement, including a ceasefire, has reportedly been reached in Wadi Barda. Elsewhere, the Syrian armed forces and a delegation from Daraya (western Ghouta) started direct negotiations in early August on a comprehensive agreement to allow civilians to return to their homes. The negotiations continue, particularly over the issue of detainees and the surrendering of medium-sized weapons. Negotiations on a ceasefire in the Waer neighbourhood of Homs city are ongoing, although hostilities have reportedly continued.

18. On 11 September, the 45 United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) peacekeepers who had been detained by the Nusra Front since 28 August were released. All 45 peacekeepers were reportedly in good condition. The situation in UNDOF on the Syrian side and the area of separation significantly deteriorated in mid-September. Armed groups have made advances in the area of UNDOF positions, posing a direct threat to the safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers along the Bravo line and in Camp Faouar. As a result, all United Nations personnel in those positions have been relocated to the Alpha side.

19. The Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, accompanied by his Deputy, Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy, visited Damascus from 9 to 13 September for initial discussions with government officials, opposition representatives in the Syrian Arab Republic and representatives of civil society organizations and women's groups. It was the first visit of the Special Envoy to the country since taking up his assignment on 1 September 2014. This was followed by visits to a number of regional and international capitals, including Beirut, Cairo, Paris and Ankara.

20. On 10 September, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons announced that the fact-finding mission to examine alleged uses of chlorine gas as a weapon in the Syrian Arab Republic had found information constituting "compelling confirmation" that a toxic chemical was used "systematically and repeatedly" as a weapon in Talmanes, Tamanah and Kafr Zeta in the northern part of the country earlier in 2014.

B. Human rights

21. On 27 August 2014, the independent international commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic released its eighth report (A/HRC/27/60), based on 480 interviews and evidence collected between 20 January and 15 July 2014. The commission found that government forces had continued to conduct widespread attacks on civilians, systematically committing murder, torture, rape and enforced disappearance amounting to crimes against humanity. It reported that government forces had further committed gross violations of human rights and the war crimes of murder, hostage-taking, torture, rape and sexual violence, recruiting and using children in hostilities and targeting civilians.

22. In the same report, the commission found that the armed groups named in the report, including ISIL, had committed massacres and war crimes, including murder, execution without due process, torture, hostage-taking, violations of international humanitarian law tantamount to enforced disappearance, rape and sexual violence, recruitment and use of children in hostilities and attacks on protected objects. Medical and religious personnel and journalists had been targeted. Armed groups had besieged and indiscriminately shelled civilian neighbourhoods, in some instances spreading terror among civilians through the use of car bombings in civilian areas. Notably, the commission found that, in addition to war crimes, members of ISIL had committed torture, murder, acts tantamount to enforced disappearance, and forcible displacement as part of an attack on the civilian population in Aleppo and Raqqa governorates, amounting to crimes against humanity.

23. During the reporting period, OHCHR continued to receive reports of arbitrary arrests and detentions carried out by government forces in Hama and Aleppo governorates, targeting activists. As at 11 August, the whereabouts of at least 25 activists, who were detained by government forces in July and August 2014 during door-to-door search campaigns in various parts of Aleppo governorate, remained unknown.

24. Women and children continued to be severely affected by the conflict during the reporting period. As at 17 September, about 130 of the 153 students abducted by ISIL on 29 May while travelling to Ain al-Arab, Aleppo, continued to be held by the group. Meanwhile, OHCHR received reports that a female dentist had her identification document confiscated at an ISIL checkpoint in Deir ez-Zor. According

to activists, on 19 August 2014, nearly 10 days after her disappearance, ISIL said that she had been executed, but the whereabouts of her body remain unknown. While the reasons for her disappearance remain unclear, the media has reported that she was targeted for treating male patients.

25. On 17 August 2014, ISIL took over the villages of Abu Hamam, Kashkiyeh and Ghranij in Deir ez-Zor, which are inhabited by the Sheitat tribe, after almost one month of encircling and fighting to gain control. Information gathered by OHCHR indicates that, before and during the period of encirclement, the women and children of the villages were able to leave. Reportedly, those remaining behind were mainly elderly persons and Free Syrian Army elements and affiliates from the Sheitat tribe who were defending their villages. Upon seizing the villages, ISIL reportedly executed and detained hundreds of people.

26. In addition, according to various sources, ISIL executed dozens of individuals in Deir ez-Zor, Aleppo and Raqqa governorates on charges that varied from apostasy to aiding government forces. The victims reportedly included civilians, Nusra Front fighters, and government operatives who had reportedly infiltrated the armed group. On 28 August 2014, a video was released showing that, following the takeover of Tabaqa airbase in Raqqa, ISIL executed at least 226 soldiers at the entrance of the airbase. The names and ranks were later published by ISIL.

27. ISIL targeting of media personnel continued. On 19 August, an American journalist was executed by ISIL, and an American-Israeli journalist was executed on 2 September. At least seven other media professionals are believed to be held captive by ISIL.

28. During the reporting period, ISIL reportedly issued a statement to all education and teaching institutions in Raqqa governorate, including references to abolishing the current Ministry of Education and implementing a series of structural curricular changes, such as the abolition of subjects such as history, musical and artistic education and sport.

29. The Government has indicated that between 21 August and 9 September 2014, 1,669 individuals were pardoned after surrendering themselves and their weapons and pledging not to participate in the hostilities. The Government did not provide further details on the pardons. OHCHR is not in a position to verify this information.

30. A lack of accountability continues to lead to impunity for perpetrators of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law in the Syrian Arab Republic. During the reporting period, the commission of inquiry had yet to receive any response from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to its most recent request for access to the country for the purpose of fulfilling its Human Rights Council mandate. The latest letter from the commission, dated 30 July, asking for access to the Syrian Arab Republic, was its third such request in 2014. Members of the commission of inquiry, OHCHR and United Nations human rights monitors continue to be denied access to the country.

C. Humanitarian access

31. About 10.8 million people continue to be in need of urgent humanitarian assistance within the Syrian Arab Republic, including more than 6.4 million people who are internally displaced. Some 4.7 million people reside in areas categorized as

hard to reach, including at least 241,000 people who remain besieged by either government or opposition forces.

32. United Nations agencies and partners continued to make some gains in humanitarian access during the reporting period. A record number of people were reached with food assistance in August. Deliveries across borders and across lines continued, with access across borders following the adoption of resolution 2165 (2014) resulting in broader reach to areas in Aleppo, Dar`a, Hama, Idlib, Ladhiqiyah and Quneitra governorates. There have also been openings in access across conflict lines, with some cross-line deliveries of food, health and water and sanitation supplies in Aleppo (eastern and western rural), Idlib and Rif Dimashq.

33. Despite the recent gains in humanitarian access, the delivery of humanitarian assistance to hard-to-reach areas remains challenging, primarily due to insecurity and administrative hurdles. Overall, assistance reached 77 (approximately 26.8 per cent) of the 287 locations identified as besieged or hard to reach. Food assistance by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) reached 251,808 people in 33 hard-to-reach areas compared with 469,510 people in 23 hard-to-reach locations during the previous reporting period. UNHCR, UNRWA, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Organization for Migration delivered non-food items to 104,837 people in 39 hard-to-reach areas compared with 81,151 people in 23 hard-to-reach locations during the previous reporting period. The World Health Organization (WHO) delivered medicines for approximately 183,000 people and provided water and sanitation support for approximately 88,300 people. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided water and sanitation support for 140,000 people and nutritional support for 30,000 children in hard-to-reach areas.

34. The monitoring mechanism of the United Nations is currently operational, with one monitoring team in Turkey and one monitoring team in Jordan. The rapid establishment of the monitoring teams was possible due to the support afforded to the United Nations by the Governments of Jordan and Turkey. A second monitoring team in Turkey is being established. The deployment of the monitoring team in Iraq remains pending due to the ongoing fighting and insecurity in the north-western part of the country.

35. The United Nations and its partners have sent 14 shipments — 10 from Turkey and 4 from Jordan — to the Syrian Arab Republic under the terms of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014), using three border crossings: Bab al-Salam, Bab al-Hawa and Ramtha. This has included food assistance for more than 94,500 people; non-food items for more than 182,400 people; water and sanitation supplies for about 66,760 people; and medical supplies for more than 151,100 people, including surgical supplies for 100 people, as well as other items for 47,900 people in Aleppo, Dar`a, Hama, Idlib, Ladhiqiyah and Quneitra governorates.

36. In line with resolution 2165 (2014), the United Nations notified the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in advance of each shipment, including details about content, destination district and number of beneficiaries. Monitoring mechanism teams monitored the loading of the shipments and accompanied the loaded vehicles to the respective border crossing. In addition, for each shipment, the monitoring mechanism sent a notification to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic confirming the humanitarian nature of the shipment in accordance with resolution 2165 (2014).

37. In the light of the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Hasakeh governorate, relief items continue to be urgently needed. The items are transported through the Nusaybin/Qamishli border crossing, which is the most direct and least costly route into the governorate. The Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs assured the United Nations on 17 September that the Nusaybin/Qamihli border crossing was open. The United Nations is negotiating with the authorities on further convoys. During the reporting period, UNHCR and WFP continued to organize airlifts from Damascus into Hasakeh governorate. WFP transported assistance for up to 63,000 people in August; UNHCR transported non-food items for up to 15,000 people. In addition, WHO was also able to deliver diarrhoea kits for more than 1,400 people and UNICEF airlifted supplies for more than 4,000 people in Qamishli. UNHCR has provided transportation for more than 6,000 refugees returning to Iraq.

38. During the reporting period, access to the eastern governorates of the Syrian Arab Republic continued to be severely constrained by designated terrorist groups and armed opposition groups. For example, during the August food distribution cycle, none of the planned allocation reached the 295,000 people targeted in Deir ez-Zor governorate or the 285,000 people targeted in Raqqa governorate, as a result of insecurity. While Raqqa received some assistance during the previous distribution cycle, the reporting period marks the third consecutive month that WFP has not been able to gain access to Deir ez-Zor. Furthermore, armed opposition groups, including the Islamic Front, and designated terrorist groups, including ISIL, continued to block humanitarian access to each other's areas of control. In Aleppo and northern Hasakeh, for example, ISIL continued to block humanitarian access, particularly to Kurdish areas and to villages in Deir ez-Zor not under their control.

39. Despite the difficult operating environment, agencies of the United Nations system and partners continued their efforts to deliver assistance to those in need. In August, WFP dispatched food for 4.16 million people across 12 Syrian governorates, or 98 per cent of the planned target of 4.25 million, representing a 13 per cent increase from the 3.66 million (86 per cent of the target) reached in July and the highest level achieved since the beginning of the crisis. UNICEF deliveries of chlorine benefited 16.55 million people with clean water. WHO distributed medicines and supplies for about 369,000 medical treatments.[3] Between 19 August and 15 September, UNHCR dispatched core relief items benefiting more than 352,460 people in 10 governorates.

Besieged areas

40. Approximately 241,000 people remain besieged, 196,000 in areas besieged by government forces in Madamiyet Elsham, eastern Ghouta, Darayya and Yarmouk, and 45,000 in areas besieged by opposition forces in Nubul and Zahra.

41. During the reporting period, assistance, including medical assistance, reached two besieged communities: Douma (eastern Ghouta) and Yarmouk. Food was distributed to 17,508 people (7.3 per cent of people in besieged areas) and non-food items to 5,872 people (2.4 per cent); medicines were delivered sufficient for up to 76,364 people (31.7 per cent).

[3] One standard treatment course (for example, a course of antibiotics for eight days) is considered as treatment for one person. Treatment courses are determined for each distribution of medicine based on international WHO standards.

42. In eastern Ghouta, 150,000 people remain besieged. On 9 September, WHO, together with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), delivered antibiotics, communicable disease medicines equivalent to 71,000 treatments and water and sanitation items, including chlorine disinfection sachets, to respond to the increasing number of typhoid cases in Douma.

43. In Madamiyet Elsham, about 24,000 people, including some 9,000 children, face a shortage of basic needs and movement constraints. No assistance reached Madamiyet Elsham during the reporting period. Humanitarian assistance last reached the area on 28 July, when WHO and SARC delivered 5 tons of medical assistance, sufficient to support the 24,000 people for two months.

44. In Darayya (Rif Dimashq), about 4,000 people remain besieged. No assistance reached Darayya during the reporting period; the area was last assisted in October 2012.

45. In Yarmouk, about 18,000 people remain besieged. UNRWA gained access to Yarmouk on 19 days during the reporting period, reaching 17,508 people with food parcels, 5,872 people with non-food items and, along with a WHO delivery, reached 5,364 people with health supplies and medicine. The distribution to Yarmouk of medical supplies, including antibiotics and a range of medicines for chronic and non-communicable diseases, as well as standard infant and early childhood vaccines, was permitted for the second consecutive month. WHO also provided water and sanitation support for 8,000 people. On 25 August, gunfire and mortars struck the vicinity of the UNRWA distribution point in Yarmouk, halting the distribution of food and health services for the day.

46. In Nubul and Zahra, about 45,000 people remain besieged by opposition forces. No humanitarian assistance has reached the two villages since 8 May.

Free passage of medical supplies, personnel and equipment

47. WHO delivered medicines and medical equipment to hard-to-reach areas in Dar`a, Rif Dimashq, Damascus and Hasakeh governorates. WHO and partners distributed medicines and supplies for approximately 183,000 medical treatments, including antibiotics and medicines for non-communicable diseases and diarrhoea kits for more than 108,000 people in Busra, Hrak and Jasem in Dar`a governorate; distributed to the besieged town of Douma in eastern Ghouta antibiotics and medicines for communicable diseases sufficient for more than 71,000 treatments, and pre-positioned Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All items for 80,000, including chlorine disinfection sachets, to respond to the increasing number of typhoid cases in the town; distributed antibiotics, medicines for chronic diseases and one diarrhoea kit for 2,650 in Yarmouk camp in Damascus; and delivered diarrhoea kits for the treatment of up to 1,400 Iraqi refugees in Qamishli.

48. A subnational level polio vaccination campaign took place from 31 August to 4 September. Preliminary results indicate that over 1 million children were reached, including in hard-to-reach areas. Three additional response campaigns are planned by the Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF before the end of 2014.

49. Attacks on medical facilities and personnel continued over the reporting period. During August, Physicians for Human Rights documented nine attacks on medical facilities. Three were in Aleppo governorate, two in Dar`a, two in Idlib, one in Raqqa and one in Rif Dimashq. Four were attacks by missiles and rockets, three

by barrel bombs and two by aerial bombardment with unknown weapons. Two of the seven medical facilities had previously been attacked. The deaths of 21 medical personnel were also documented. Physicians for Human Rights report that 17 personnel died from shelling or bombing, 2 died from torture and 2 were executed.

Administrative procedures

50. The implementation of the truck-sealing procedures intended to facilitate and speed up passage at checkpoints continued to slow the delivery of humanitarian assistance. In particular, delays were noted in the approval of weekly loading plans. On 26 August, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the United Nations that agencies could send the loading plans on a biweekly or monthly basis in order to simplify procedures, since weekly loading plans were creating constraints. The movement of supplies to hard-to-reach areas continued to be negotiated on a case-by-case basis through meetings of the joint committee established following the adoption of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Social Affairs and security personnel centrally. This process also continued to be applicable for authorization for hard-to-reach areas from United Nations hubs at the governorate level, which previously did not require authorization at the central/national levels. In Aleppo, Hama, Homs and Idlib, the governors are implementing the new directive issued on 29 May. This has led to significant delays in the approval of some convoys.

51. On 11 September, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs notified the United Nations that regular importation of goods through the official border crossings, namely, Jdaidet Yacoub, Tartus port, Ladhiqiyah port, Naseeb and Nusaybin, could proceed to warehouses of the United Nations or of international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) directly from the crossing upon authorization of the official in charge of the crossing, rather than requiring an additional facilitation letter from the Governor. Other administrative procedures continue to apply.

52. As at 17 September, 33 United Nations visas or visa renewal requests remained pending: 17 within the 15-working-day limit and 16 exceeding the 15-working-day limit. As at the same date, the number of pending visas for international NGOs stood at 17.

53. Six national NGOs were authorized to partner with agencies of the United Nations system in Damascus, Ladhiqiyah and Homs governorates during the reporting period. There are 91 national NGOs operating through 148 branches throughout the Syrian Arab Republic.

54. International NGOs continue to be unable to conduct independent (or joint) needs assessments; most cannot open sub-offices; and they are not authorized to partner with national NGOs or participate in inter-agency cross-line convoys or United Nations field missions.

Safety and security of staff and premises

55. On 13 September, ISIL executed a British aid worker. ISIL also reportedly holds a number of other aid workers.

56. On 9 September, a SARC ambulance was reportedly targeted by a sniper during a transfer of a patient along the road near Khan Eshieh from Quneitra to Damascus. No casualties were reported, although the patient was injured.

57. On 7 September, a rocket hit one of the hotels in Damascus where many agencies of the United Nations system are located and its international personnel reside, causing structural damage to the rooms but no casualties. One staff member of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs was badly injured.

58. On 31 August, a missile hit another hotel in Damascus, host to a number of United Nations offices, causing material damage. No one claimed responsibility for the incident.

59. On 27 August, shells fell on a SARC-Dar`a convoy that was offloading in northern Dar`a. Four SARC staff and volunteers were injured and two trucks damaged.

60. On 25 August, gunfire and mortars struck the vicinity of the UNRWA distribution point in Yarmouk camp in Damascus, halting the distribution of food and health services.

61. On 21 August, an UNRWA staff member was killed while attempting to escape worsening insecurity in the Palestine refugee camp in Dar`a.

62. Twenty-nine United Nations national staff members, of whom 26 are UNRWA staff, continue to be detained or missing. The total number of humanitarian workers killed in the conflict since March 2011 is 63. This includes 15 United Nations staff members, 38 SARC staff members and volunteers, 7 Palestine Red Crescent Society volunteers and staff members, and 3 international NGO staff members.

III. Observations

63. I welcome the current discussions on how the international community can come together, within the context of international law, particularly international humanitarian law, to confront the scourge of terrorism and foreign terrorist fighter networks. ISIL, Jabhat al-Nusra and other groups pose a real threat to international peace and security. The past few months have seen a worrying increase in the violence and brutality civilians have had to endure in the Syrian Arab Republic, fuelled by acts of violence by ISIL and other armed groups and the continued actions of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. It is worth remembering that ISIL is a consequence, not a cause, of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Syrian conflict has deep political roots and needs to be resolved through negotiations. Absent a comprehensive political solution, humanitarian needs will spiral and the impact of terrorism and violence will continue unabated and will spill over to the region and beyond. To this end, I call upon all Member States and Syrian parties to extend full cooperation to the Special Envoy.

64. The lack of progress in finding a political solution and the continued deterioration of the security situation continues to drive increasing numbers of Syrians to take matters into their own hands by negotiating local agreements to stop the fighting. Some local ceasefires are agreed as a result of coercion and deliberate starvation; such ceasefires are not credible and should not be supported. Where local agreements have been negotiated on those terms they indicate a desperate desire to end the suffering. People want an opportunity to return to a normal life. Owing to the lack of trust between parties, many opposition interlocutors have contacted the United Nations to seek our involvement in negotiations and to act as a guarantor. I urge all sides, especially the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, to consider

cooperating with the United Nations in identifying ways to build lasting local agreements. Ensuring that local agreements meet international standards, and including relief and recovery elements in them, would help to curtail the levels of violence at a community level and contribute to a process leading to a comprehensive ceasefire and could also help to create the conditions necessary for a political settlement of the conflict.

65. The parties to the conflict have neglected, ignored and abused their international legal obligations. The selected testimonies from victims of the Syrian conflict published by the independent international commission of inquiry are a stark and gruesome reminder that violations of international humanitarian law and human rights, including those that may amount to crimes against humanity, continue to be perpetrated by government forces, anti-government armed groups and designated terrorists against the people of the Syrian Arab Republic. Civilians and those hors de combat continued to be targeted in blatant violation of international humanitarian law. The use of chemical weapons such as chlorine gas is also prohibited.

66. Security Council resolution 2165 (2014) allowed a greater opening and coherence for operations in the Syrian Arab Republic and enabled the United Nations and its partners to reach more people in need. The success of cross-border operations under the aegis of resolution 2165 (2014) has been made possible by the excellent cooperation the monitoring team of the United Nations has had with the Governments of Turkey and Jordan. I thank both Governments for their support. Access to besieged and hard-to-reach areas, however, remains limited. Violence, shifting front lines, insecurity and lack of regular, sustained and unhindered access, including administrative hurdles, mean that people in desperate need of help are not receiving adequate and regular, or — in some cases — any, assistance. Some 241,000 people still live under siege. They must have protection, food, health care and clean water. These are not luxuries to be granted but basics that the parties must allow to be delivered. The parties need to urgently lift the sieges. Humanitarian actors must also be respected, protected and allowed to reach those in need by all routes available, both across lines and across borders. And they must be able to do so safely. I remind the parties that targeting aid workers can constitute a war crime.

67. Despite the valiant efforts of humanitarian workers delivering aid at great personal risk, the Syrian Arab Republic remains the world's largest and most pressing humanitarian crisis, with regional and global implications. Needs, driven by violence, continue to outpace the response. And neighbouring countries continue to host large numbers of refugees.

68. The solution to the crisis can be found only through a political resolution, and I appeal to the parties and the international community to do much more to take the courageous — and long overdue — steps needed to resolve the crisis.

Annex

Implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014): available data

1. Protection of civilians[a]

Examples of attacks on civilian facilities (schools, hospitals, camps, places of worship)

- As at 17 September, approximately 130 of the 153 students kidnapped by ISIL on 29 May while on the road to Ain al-Arab continue to be held.
- On 11 September, air strikes reportedly hit a sheep market in Bab, Aleppo, killing 11 people.
- On 7 September, air strikes reportedly hit a bakery in Raqqa city, killing some 25 people.
- On 31 August, barrel bombs reportedly fell on Nabd Horan hospital in Dar'a governorate.
- On 27 August, barrel bombs reportedly fell on Rafas hospital in Dar'a governorate.
- On 21 August, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) issued a statement following an attack on a school in the Waer neighbourhood of Homs, in which one prefabricated classroom was destroyed and two others damaged in a mortar attack on 15 August.

Large-scale impact of conflict on public services

- The conflict continued to disrupt health-care services. Hospitals have been damaged in 12 of the country's 14 governorates. Out of 97 Ministry of Health hospitals:
  - 41 per cent are reported as fully functioning; 35 per cent are reported as partially functioning; and 24 per cent are reported as not functioning at all.
  - 71 per cent are reported as accessible to patients seeking treatment, while 29 per cent are not accessible owing to insecurity.
- People in Aleppo city still reportedly face difficulties in gaining regular access to safe water supplies following damage caused to water, sewage and electrical networks by an explosion on 2 June. Water supplies were restored to Aleppo city on 6 September after two days of complete water cut, with water now reportedly rationed.
- The electricity supply was reportedly restored to Waer in early September after months of blackout.
- An attack on 18 August reportedly damaged the water plant in Raqqa city, resulting in cuts to the water supply.

[a] The United Nations has a distinct and regular mechanism of reporting on the six grave violations against children in armed conflict that has set verification standards and periodicity of reporting to identify trends.

2. Safe and unhindered humanitarian access to people in need

Hard-to-reach areas

- Latest estimates indicate that 4.7 million people are located in "hard-to-reach" areas and in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.
- Food assistance was provided to 251,808 people during the reporting period in hard-to-reach areas (207,300 by the World Food Programme (WFP) and 44,508 by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)).
- Non-food items were provided to 104,837 people in hard-to-reach areas (86,161 by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 5,872 by UNRWA, 2,000 by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and 10,804 by the International Organization for Migration).
- UNICEF reached 140,142 people with water, sanitation and hygiene items. The World Health Organization (WHO) dispatched water, sanitation and hygiene support for up to 80,000 people in Douma, eastern Ghouta area and 8,000 people in Yarmouk.
- UNICEF provided 14,390 children with educational support in hard-to-reach areas.
- UNICEF and partners provided high-energy biscuits for up to 10,000 children in Idlib governorate and for 20,000 children in Qamishli governorate.
- WHO provided supplies for 71,000 medical treatments to Douma, eastern Ghouta, and 108,000 medical supplies and treatments in Busra, Hrak and Jasem in Dar`a governorate. It also provided support for medical treatments for 2,650 people in Yarmouk camp. UNICEF supplied three health kits to cover primary health-care needs of 30,000 internally displaced persons and host communities for three months in Harim (rural Idlib).

Inter-agency cross-line convoys

- Two inter-agency convoys took place during the reporting period:
  - On 25 August, a joint United Nations convoy reached Harim district of Idlib governorate with supplies for up to 12,500 people for distribution in the Qah camp.
  - On 15 September, the first of two convoys to Houla targeted 30,000 people in Taldo and Qabo villages. The second part of the convoy is scheduled for 22 September, targeting 16,000 people.
- On 9 September, in a meeting of the joint committee established following the adoption of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), the Government requested the United Nations, in writing, to dispatch a convoy to Adra al-Badad and Adra Umaliya. Planning is under way for the convoy. On 16 September approval was received for a convoy to Harasta in rural Damascus.
- Five inter-agency convoys were requested but did not take place during the reporting period:

– An inter-agency convoy to Douma scheduled for 18-21 August and targeting 5,000 families did not take place, as there was no response by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the request.

– An inter-agency convoy to Douma scheduled for 25-28 August and targeting 5,000 families did not take place, as there was no response by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the request.

– An inter-agency convoy to eastern Ghouta scheduled for 4 September and targeting 1,000 families did not take place, as there was no response by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the request.

– Despite Government approval, an inter-agency convoy to Adra al-Badad and Adra Umaliya, Rif Dimashq scheduled for 19-22 August did not take place, as there was no agreement on the route.

– On 15 September, a planned convoy to Ehsem (Idlib governorate) targeting 8,750 people did not proceed owing to the intensification of fighting in the area and the lack of final approval by authorities. Discussions with government authorities are ongoing.

Besieged areas

- In total, 241,000 people remain besieged.
- During the reporting period, food assistance was distributed to 17,508 people, or 7.3 per cent of those besieged; non-food items were distributed to 5,872 people, or 2.4 per cent; and medical assistance was distributed to 76,364 people, or 31.7 per cent of people in besieged areas.
- UNRWA delivered food assistance to 17,508 people in Yarmouk camp, non-food items to 5,872 people and medical assistance to 2,714 people. In addition, WHO dispatched medicines and supplies to Yarmouk for 2,650 treatments. Water purification supplies were also sent to Yarmouk for 8,000 treatments.
- WHO undertook a delivery to Douma, eastern Ghouta, on 9 September, with 71,000 treatments and pre-positioned Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All items for 80,000.

Cross-border assistance

According to the Turkish Red Crescent Society, humanitarian actors have channelled about $23 million worth of humanitarian assistance on average monthly from Turkey into the Syrian Arab Republic through the zero-point delivery system administered by the Society. This monthly average does not include assistance delivered by commercial or other channels.

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2165 (2014)

The United Nations and its partners have sent 14 shipments — 10 from Turkey and 4 from Jordan — to the Syrian Arab Republic under the terms of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014), using three border crossings: Bab al-Hawa, Bab al-Salam and Ramtha. This has included food assistance for more than 94,500 people; non-food items for more than 182,400 people; water and sanitation supplies for about 66,760 people; and medical supplies for more than 151,100 people, including

surgical supplies for 100 people, as well as other items for 47,900 people in Aleppo, Dar`a, Hama, Idlib, Ladhiqiyah and Quneitra governorates.

Safety of humanitarian workers

- The number of humanitarian workers killed in the conflict since March 2011 stands at 63, including 15 United Nations staff, 38 Syrian Arab Red Crescent staff and volunteers, 7 Palestine Red Crescent Society volunteers and staff, and 3 international non-governmental organization (NGO) staff.
- 29 United Nations national staff members, of whom 26 are UNRWA staff, continue to be detained or missing.

Declaration of commitment

A total of 28 armed opposition groups have signed the declaration of commitment, affirming their core responsibilities under international humanitarian law and their commitment to facilitate action to meet the needs of civilians on the basis of need alone. Of the 28 signatories, four groups signed during the reporting period:

– Jabhat Thuwar Saraqeb Wa Reefha, on 1 September

– Harakat Tahreer Homs, on 3 September

– Faylaq Homs, on 4 September

– Hayat Duru' al-Thawra, on 5 September

3. Safe passage of medical personnel and supplies

Attacks on medical facilities during the reporting period

- Physicians for Human Rights documented nine attacks on medical facilities in August. Three were in Aleppo governorate, two in Dar`a, two in Idlib, one in Raqqa, and one in Rif Dimashq. Four were reportedly attacks by missiles and rockets, three by barrel bombs and two by aerial bombardment with unknown weapons. Two attacks were on facilities that have previously been attacked.
- In total, Physicians for Human Rights has documented 195 attacks on 155 separate medical facilities since the start of the conflict.
- Physicians for Human Rights documented that 21 medical personnel were killed in August. Seventeen personnel reportedly died from shelling or bombing, two died from torture and two were executed. Overall, the organization has recorded the deaths of 561 medical personnel since the start of the conflict.

Removal of medicines and medical supplies from convoys

Access continues to be hampered by the deterioration of the security context, the fluidity of the population and constraints imposed on humanitarian operations by the Syrian Government.

Polio vaccination campaign

The preliminary report from the most recent campaign conducted at the subnational level between 31 August and 4 September reveals that more than 1 million

children have been reached, including in hard-to-reach areas. However, access was not permitted to Ain al-Arab in Aleppo governorate or Waer in Homs governorate.

4. Administrative hurdles

- On 9 June, the Ministry of Social Affairs communicated to governors that all convoys or missions to "hot spot areas"[b] required the approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the High Relief Committee and the National Security Office. Previously, the governors were delegated to coordinate and authorize delivery of assistance within their respective governorates, including across lines of conflict. Delivery of assistance to cross-line locations continues to be hampered as a result of the directive.
- On 7 July, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs communicated a time frame for submitting the weekly loading plans in accordance with the truck-sealing procedures rolled out for the movement of trucks for regular programmes: loading plans are to be submitted by agencies of the United Nations system each Monday during working hours. The Government has committed to clear the weekly loading plans on Thursdays for distributions to start on Saturdays.
- An exemption was obtained with respect to the distribution of medicines, medical equipment and water, sanitation and hygiene items for regular programmes. The distribution of such items will be exempted from some of the new procedures rolled out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in April and May. The distribution of medical aid for cross-line deliveries will be coordinated by the Ministry of Health on a case-by-case basis.
- On 26 August, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the United Nations that agencies could send the loading plans on a biweekly or monthly basis in order to simplify procedures, since weekly loading plans were creating constraints.
- On 11 September, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs notified the United Nations that regular importation of goods through the official border crossings, namely Jdaidet Yacoub, Tartus port, Ladhiqiyah port, Naseeb and Nusaybin, could proceed to United Nations or international-NGO warehouses directly from the crossing upon authorization of the official in charge of the crossing, rather than requiring an additional facilitation letter from the Governor. Other administrative procedures continue to apply.

Clearance procedures for telecommunications equipment

Government approvals to import and operate information and communications technology equipment remain a lengthy process. In the reporting period, UNHCR staff on a pre-approved list received licences to use Thuraya handheld devices in public. The equipment approved during the previous reporting period has been distributed and installed. The VSAT for Qamishli was approved and is pending customs clearance.

[b] The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic refers to "hot spots". Clarification was requested by the United Nations on 16 July for the definition and criteria of "hot spots" but has not been received. For the purpose of the present report, these are referred to as hard-to-reach areas until clarified because of the difficulty in reaching these locations.

Empowered interlocutors

- *Government of the Syrian Arab Republic*. The joint United Nations and Government of the Syrian Arab Republic committee established following the adoption of resolution 2139 (2014) includes a security focal point. Regular meetings are held between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Humanitarian Coordinator on an almost daily basis.
- The opposition is still unable to designate empowered interlocutors. The fragmented nature of the opposition makes it difficult to clearly identify an interlocutor for armed opposition groups. Ad hoc local engagement is ongoing to negotiate access. Interlocutors vary depending on the localities where access is being negotiated.

Visas

- The revised visa policy established by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic on 4 March continued to be implemented. As at 17 September, 33 United Nations visas or renewal requests remained pending, 17 within the 15-working-day limit and 16 exceeding the 15-working-day limit.
- As at 17 September, the number of pending visas for international NGOs stood at 17. During the reporting period three new visa requests were granted, five new visa requests made, and two requests cancelled as the individuals' contracts with the NGOs had expired while awaiting the issuance of visas.

Humanitarian hubs and presence

- UNHCR continues to work on security enhancements in newly established offices in Damascus (a third building in Damascus), Sweida and Qamishli.
- UNICEF has strengthened its presence in Aleppo and Qamishli in response to the increasing needs in these areas.

International non-governmental organization partners

- The number of international NGOs approved to work in the Syrian Arab Republic stands at 16.
- International NGOs are still not authorized to work directly with national NGOs and are not allowed to accompany United Nations convoys.
- There was no progress in the revision of the standard memorandum of understanding for international NGOs with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and line ministries.

National non-governmental organization partners

- The number of national NGOs authorized to partner with the United Nations stands at 91, operating through 148 branches.
- Six new national NGOs were authorized during the reporting period: three in Damascus governorate, two in Homs governorate and one in Ladhiqiyah governorate.

5. Funding

- A total of $530 million of funding for the Syrian crisis was registered during the reporting period. Of that amount, $199.6 million was for activities inside the Syrian Arab Republic and $330.4 million was for support to Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries.
- Of the total amount reported for the Syrian Arab Republic during the reporting period, 23.5 per cent ($46.8 million) was for activities included in the Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan. For neighbouring countries, 81.7 per cent ($269.9 million) of the amount reported was for activities included in the Syria Regional Refugee Response Plan.
- As at 17 September, the total funding for the Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan and the Syria Regional Refugee Response Plan stood at 46 per cent ($6.02 billion requested, $2.76 billion received). The Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan is 33 per cent funded and the Syria Regional Refugee Response Plan is 53 per cent funded.

6. Overview of United Nations humanitarian response

Food assistance

- In August, food for a record 4.16 million people — 98 per cent of the monthly target — was dispatched by WFP to partners inside the Syrian Arab Republic, marking a 13 per cent increase since the July cycle and the highest level achieved since the beginning of the crisis.
- Of the total assistance dispatched in August, 87.5 per cent was delivered through regular programme operations and 11 per cent through cross-line missions, while a further 1.5 per cent was included in four cross-border trans-shipments.
- Access to the north-eastern governorates continues to be restricted by ongoing violence and the presence of armed groups blocking main access routes. Supplies that were not able to reach their planned destinations were redirected to support areas where escalating needs were reported by partners on the ground or to hard-to-reach areas where windows of opportunity opened up.
- Between 1 and 14 September, WFP reached over 2 million people with food assistance.

Core relief items and shelter

- UNHCR dispatched core relief items for more than 352,460 people in 10 governorates between 19 August and 15 September. In total, more than 3.25 million people have received core relief items in 13 of the 14 governorates since the beginning of the year. UNHCR has reached 620,749 individuals in 95 hard-to-reach and besieged areas since the beginning of the year.
- The International Organization for Migration reached another 47,500 people with non-food items during the reporting period.
- So far in 2014, UNHCR has completed the rehabilitation of collective shelters in six governorates, benefiting 11,103 people. In addition, private shelters have been upgraded for 24,176 people in Homs, Rif Dimashq and Aleppo governorates.

Health

- Through its regular programme, WHO distributed medicines and supplies for approximately 97,733 medical treatments[c] during the present reporting period in Aleppo, Idlib, Rif Dimashq, Ladhiqiyah and Damascus governorates.
- UNICEF and partners supported nearly 60,000 women and children in accessing basic health-care services.
- UNFPA continued to support its implementing partners to deliver life-saving reproductive health services through 28 mobile clinics, 27 static clinics and 13 medical points in Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Homs, Aleppo, Deir ez-Zor, Raqqa, Hama, Dar`a, Tartus and Ladhiqiyah governorates. Approximately 23,000 women received reproductive health services during the reporting period, including 5,500 who benefited from family planning services; and 540 pregnant women were referred for delivery services using reproductive health vouchers.
- UNHCR continues to provide medical equipment, medicines and support to 13 primary health-care clinics in Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Homs, Tartus, Aleppo and Hasakeh governorates.

Nutrition

- UNICEF and partners provided high-energy biscuits sufficient for 30,000 children in Newroz camp and Idlib.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

- During the reporting period, UNICEF reached an estimated 16.55 million people with access to safe water through the supply of sodium hypochlorite; 42 per cent of people assisted are in non-government-controlled areas.
- Approximately 44,000 women and children benefited from hygiene supplies and promotion.

Education

- During the reporting period, UNICEF reached 14,390 boys and girls with remedial education in Deir ez-Zor and Homs.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF has launched the "Back to learning" campaign for the 2014/15 school year, targeting 1 million children, of whom 45 per cent are in hard-to-reach areas.

Palestine refugees

- Through regular programming, UNRWA provided food assistance to 223,920 people; health consultations to 77,357 people; cash assistance to 45,456 people; 422 new microfinance loans; and water, sanitation and hygiene/shelter support to 13,743 people.

[c] One standard treatment course (for example, a course of antibiotics for eight days) is considered as treatment for one person. Treatment courses are determined for each medicine distribution based on international WHO standards.

Agriculture

- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations provided agricultural support to 1,757 people in Idlib governorate, including 266 in hard-to-reach areas. The delivery of seeds has begun in Raqqa governorate.

Protection and community services

- UNHCR continued its protection monitoring activities through staff on the ground in seven key locations; 17 community centres; partnerships with organizations; and outreach volunteers.
- UNFPA and partners provided 10,304 women with psychosocial support and psychological first aid services in Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Homs, Aleppo, Deir ez-Zor, Raqqa, Hama, Dar`a, Tartus and Ladhiqiyah governorates. In addition, 1,762 women and girls were screened for gender-based violence; of those, 568 survivors of gender-based violence received specialized services, including medical counselling.
- UNICEF, in cooperation with local NGOs, provided psychosocial support for 13,871 children in Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Dar`a, Quneitra, Tartus, Ladhiqiyah, Sweida, Idlib, Deir ez-Zor, Hama and Homs governorates. Educational sessions on mine-risk awareness were prepared for over 200,000 people.

Response to the Iraqi refugee crisis in Hasakeh governorate

- The large-scale arrival of an estimated 95,000 Yazidi people from Iraq has stabilized. The large majority (an estimated 84,000 persons) of those who entered the Syrian Arab Republic through the Yarubiyah border crossing from Iraq have since departed, using the Semalka border crossing that allows them to move to the Kurdish region of Iraq. An estimated 4,700 new arrivals from Iraq remain in the Newroz camp and approximately 3,000 stay in the surrounding villages. On 1 September, with the influx stabilized, UNHCR started its identification exercise, which is aimed at ascertaining the camp population for planning and assistance delivery. The vast majority of the camp population have received non-food items and other support.
- UNICEF is supporting water and sanitation services for 7,000 people and providing psychosocial support to children in the camp. WHO provided two diarrhoea kits for treatment of up to 1,400 Iraqi refugees. WFP has distributed a total of 2,400 ready-to-eat meals to Iraqi refugees hosted in Newroz camp.